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Panchayati Raj

DECEMBER 1960

PANCHAYATI RAJ

(Incorporating Gram Sevak)

AGRAHAYANA 1882

Vol. 1 **DECEMBER 1960** **No. 9**

CONTENTS

OUR MONTHLY LETTER NO. 7—*S. K. Dey* 1
GLIMPSES OF PANCHAYATI RAJ IN RAJASTHAN—*Vidur* 2
LETTERS 5
NEWS FROM THE CENTRE 7
NEWS FROM THE STATES 9
COMMUNITY ON THE MOVE 10
THE STORY OF A COLLECTIVE FARM IN RUSSIA—*P. Ionov* 12
JAWAN MAL BUILDS THE ROAD—*H. C. Srivastva* 13
JOB CHART FOR GRAM SEVIKAS 15

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BUSINESS NOTICE
Single Copy : 15 nP.
Annual : Rs. 1·25

All enquiries regarding agency and rates of subscription and advertisements may be addressed to the Publications Division, Old Secretariat, Delhi-6. Editorial correspondence may be addressed to the Editor, *Panchayati Raj*, Ministry of Community Development & Cooperation, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi.

Our Monthly Letter No. 7

New Delhi
December 4, 1960.

DEAR COMRADE,

The winter is fully on. There is more blood flowing in the veins. I know I can work much harder than I could during the summer months. I am doing so. But even then I find it hard to do all I wish to do. I have missed my monthly letter to you for some issues now. I feel sorry for it. You must forgive me.

We have been driving ourselves very hard in the Ministry for months now. We are determined to do all we can to push forward the scheme of Panchayati Raj. Sahakari Samaj also must come alongside. Sahakari Samaj deals with the economy of the villages. Panchayati Raj and Sahakari Samaj must be yoked together. Then alone the cart of development in our villages will move forward evenly. One without the other is like the cart moving only on one wheel. You know, even a bicycle requires two wheels if it is to move.

We have lately been placing a high emphasis on the growth of Sahakari Samaj from the village upwards. We have completed the study of how a Service Cooperative should work in the village. The subject has been discussed exhaustively with the State representatives. The decisions of the Government of India have already been conveyed to every one concerned. We have taken decision also on joint cooperative farming.

We do not wish to disturb the good and progressive farmers. They can and should carry on their work in the field by taking such help and assistance as they need from the service cooperative and the Extension staff. In every village however there are a number of farmers who own small and uneconomic holdings. Their cultivation practices are primitive despite all our efforts with them. How can we help these marginal cultivators? That has been the question troubling us. In joint cooperative farming we think we have found the answer for this group of people. They can pool their land, cattle and implements. They can secure Government assistance as a group. They can plan their production collectively, based on improved patterns and practices.

In asking for joint cooperative farming we are only promoting an extension of the joint family practices in India. In a joint cooperative farm, the cultivators will have a common means of livelihood based on a common plan. They will however retain the autonomy of their kitchens. It is therefore an improvement on even the joint family system. It is a noble concept. We realise however that there are many people in India who are opposed to this, for varying reasons. We know, they will do determined propaganda against the concept. The marginal farmers whom we wish to help will also be shy to pool their land with others, to start with.

We have, therefore, decided to have a pilot project of about 10 joint cooperative farms in every district during the Third Five Year Plan. We will give technical assistance as effectively as we can to these farmers. If the idea is to catch others, it must meet the test. The test is in increased production. There must also be bigger income and more dignity for the cultivator. If these are satisfied, the concept is bound to grow into a movement. It should spread like wild fire. You will hear more about this programme.

Now I wish to pose a question to you. I am finding it extremely difficult to solve it myself. We produce a tremendous lot of literature meant for you. The literature is on every subject of community development under the sky from village latrine to Panchayati Raj and Sahakari Samaj. The production of this literature costs us enormous effort and money. How do we make this literature reach you? How do we get you to read this literature and discuss it with friends around you?

Our thinking in Delhi will have no meaning if it remains bottled up here or within the walls of the State Secretariats. How do we let this thinking percolate up to you? Can you let me know how we can reach you?

Yours sincerely,

S. K. Dey

GLIMPSES OF PANCHAYATI RAJ IN RAJASTHAN

VIDUR

I HAD AN opportunity to see Panchayati Raj in action in a few villages of Rajasthan which I visited recently. I covered about a score of villages in Srinagar and Jhotwara Blocks in Ajmer and Jaipur districts respectively. I had my own conceptions about Panchayati Raj and of course certain fears and doubts that I shared with many others. My faith in Panchayati Raj as the only lasting solution of the ills of rural India was confirmed after the visit. After covering the last lap of my tour, as I stood gazing at the calm waters of the Pushkar Lake set in the picturesque surroundings of the Aravali mountains, my mind turned to the mythological past when Brahma, the Creator of the Universe was said to have manifested himself for the first and only time on a Lotus leaf floating in the sacred lake. I could not help feeling that history was repeating itself. It was Rajasthan again that pioneered to bear forth the magnificent flower of Panchayati Raj which would provide the one and only broad base to democracy in India. As I was engrossed in my contemplations the Vikas Adhikari accompanying me pointed out that there used to be lot of crocodiles in the sacred lake which had become a source of great danger to the unwary pilgrims. These, he said, had been caught alive and transported to the Chambal River Valley Project. It was indeed symbolic of what Rajasthan was attempting by combating crocodiles of poverty and backwardness of her feudal past with the new weapon of Panchayati Raj.

COMING PROSPERITY

Throughout my tour I saw visible signs of improvement in the economic and social conditions of the people and the countryside everywhere. There was marked accent on productive activities, agricultural as well as industrial. As a result of the newly provided irrigation facilities in the form of tanks and wells, Barani lands which grew coarse grains like Jowar and Bajra once in several years, were being turned into smiling wheat farms, luscious orchards and vegetable gardens. These presented a welcome sight of oases in the midst of desert-like conditions where sand and nothing but sand or waste lands stretched as far as the eye could go. The coming prosperity was reflected in the new buildings for residential houses, schools, Community Centres and Cooperative Stores being built. The panches as well as the villagers had few, if any complaints to make. The farmers were receiving their supplies of seeds and fertilisers in time and without any difficulty in the village itself. They also received various loans without any undue delay or having to grease the palm of the greedy officials.

SPURT IN AGRICULTURE

As I drove on in a jeep from village to village, the story of this wonderful development unfolded itself before me like a vision. The deepest impression left on my mind was that of a sudden spurt in agricultural activities. The biggest handicap in the development of agriculture in this State had so far been lack of irrigation facilities. But the people seem to be determined to bring water to their fields even though it meant Bhagirathan efforts. In Jhotwara Block where the water table is very low and there are few tanks big enough for irrigation, the irrigated area is hardly one-fifth of the total cultivable area of 56,500 acres. However, the demand for loans for irrigation wells is mounting up. During the last one year, 5 new wells have been completed and 15 more are under construction. Because of low water table, the irrigation imposes too much strain on the bullocks, leading to great demand for pumping sets. The people are keenly looking forward to electrification which promises to provide easy solution to the pumping out of water from low level. Even in the midst of sand all

round, there are tall and stately trees of mangoes, shisham and pipal. One wonders how these trees attain such gigantic growth in spite of shortage of water. The villagers take great pains to ensure that the saplings take root. They raise 6 to 7 ft. high sand embankments around the plants. These serve dual purpose of safeguarding the plants from hot blasts so common in Rajasthan deserts in the summer, as also of conserving the rain water for the growth of the plant. Tree plantation has become almost a craze with the people. I was given to understand that over 2 lakh mango saplings were planted in the Jhotwara Block alone. This magnificent crusade is bound to arrest in course of time the march of desert in those places.

WELLS, TANKS AND RAPATS

Coming to Srinagar Block, I found people's efforts to create irrigation facilities almost staggering. This Block is riddled with Aravali ranges of low altitude. Although the rains here are as scarce as in the neighbouring parts of Rajasthan, there are quite a few seasonal Nallas which carry rain water from the mountains down the plains. Although the water table in this area is as low as in the neighbouring parts, yet the industrious people of this area have turned to good advantage their knowledge about the behaviour of these Nallas. They have found from experience that if their water is conserved for a part of the year by building a dam (which they call Rapat), this helps to raise the water table in the wells for miles around. Acting on this simple device, the Panchayat Samiti, Srinagar, has constructed 7 Rapats in different villages during the last one year thus completing 14 Rapats in all so far. Eleven more are under construction. I saw Rapats at Gagwana, Babaicha, Bubani, Ladpura and Gegal and was surprised to find that the water table in the surrounding wells for miles around had risen up to a few feet from the surface. This has made irrigation easy and practicable over hundreds of acres around the Rapat. It is interesting to notice how the areas lying beyond the percolation reach of the Rapats give a dusty and dreary appearance as compared to the nearer ones. The Rapats are indeed like oases in a desert. If there is considerable volume of water stored behind the Rapats, lift and flow irrigation through anicuts is also made possible. The sinking of wells has received an unprecedented fillip. During the one year period of Panchayati Raj, 321 new wells have been sunk and 79 old wells, repaired and deepened. Besides, 26 irrigation tanks were enlarged. I saw one huge tank nearing completion at Untra which has cost about 8 lakhs of rupees. I was told that as many as 4,000 persons participated in Shramdan on this tank on a single day. As a result of these feverish activities, irrigation facility has been extended to nearly 3,600 acres in this Block during the last one year of Panchayati Raj. At present 300 new wells, 11 Rapats and 20 tanks are under construction. Besides, there are 40 schemes of Rapats and tanks costing about Rs. 4 lakhs which will be taken up for execution as soon as funds are made available. The popular demand for wells and more wells has far outstripped the budget allocations of the Samiti. However, recently the Samiti had a windfall in the form of a prize of one lakh of rupees which it won for being the best Samiti in the State. It now proposes to utilize most of this amount for giving loans to cultivators for sinking wells.

SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

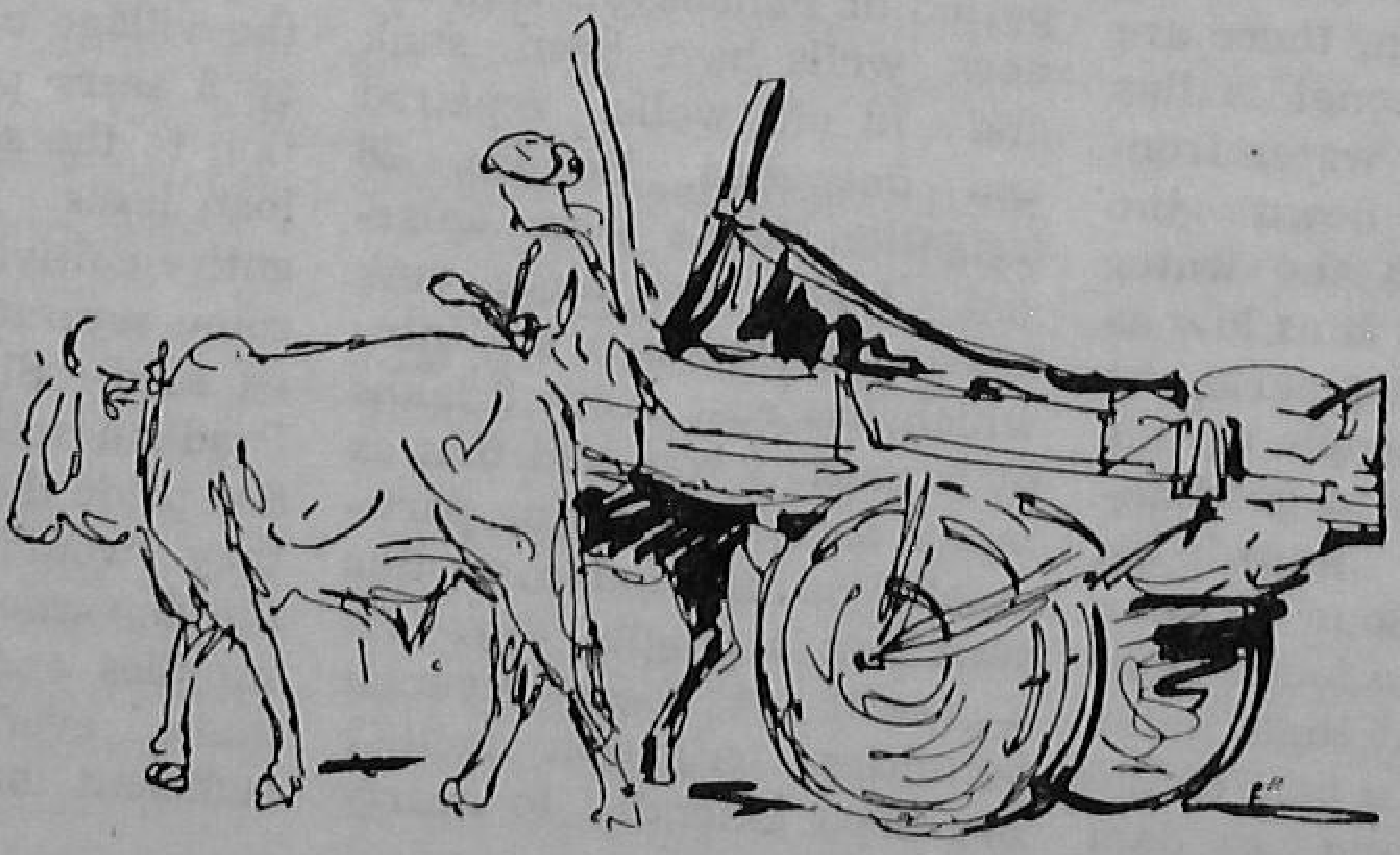
Next to the quenching of the thirst of the parched fields, is the adequate supplies of seeds and fertilisers needed for raising bumper crops. The Srinagar Samiti has made satisfactory arrangements for the timely supplies through the village cooperatives. From the cultivator, the Panchayat Samiti charges 2½ seers, and from the village cooperative society 5 seers per md. in addition to the seed advanced on loan basis. In this way, the entire cultivated area has become saturated with improved seed. Shri Shankarsingh Pradhan told me with justified pride that from next year they would not depend on the Government for the seed supplies and they intend to make every village self-sufficient in this item. His

proposal was a simple one. Every cultivator will be asked to collect the best grains from his field sown with the Government nucleus seed. Storage facility for his seed will be provided in the cooperative godown at a nominal rent in kind (say 2½ seers per md.). Thus each cultivator will place his bag of seed in the godown which will be properly treated with insecticides for safe storage.

The use of insecticides to protect crops seems to have gained wide currency in the Block. The Youth Clubs have done valuable service in this connection. The Pradhan of the Samiti himself was the leader of the Youth Club of his village Ladpura before his election. He narrated to me how for the first time he used folidol against a certain disease of the ladies' fingers in his fields. Not only was the disease eradicated but there was accelerated growth of the crop. This caught the imagination of the rest of the villagers so much that the area under cultivation of this crop alone increased from 5 acres to 100 acres. I was told that more than 300 bottles of folidol had been sold to the cultivators this year for treating this crop. As I passed through this village, I saw vast stretches of fields overgrown with ladies' fingers as far as the eyes could go.

Fruit gardening and vegetable growing is fast spreading in the wake of assured irrigation supplies. The newly laid out orchards amidst sand dumes present a very comforting and welcome sight. The soil is extraordinarily rich. I saw one orchard near Jaipur where Papitas, and Guava planted only 2 years ago looked as though five years old and had started bearing fruit. In Srinagar Block, Rasulpur appeared to be a village of orchards and vegetables. Here 80% families have taken to horticultural cultivation. The villagers largely grow Tomatos which find a ready market in Ajmer city. An old man told me that till a few years ago, very few people grow vegetables. Due to abundance of fruit and vegetables in this area, some people have started a fruit Preservation Society. The society undertakes canning and preparation of squash, jelly, jam and toffee of tomatos, mangoes, guavas and other fruits according to modern techniques.

I found that the cultivators are steadily becoming manure-minded and are even trying to make their own compost pits. The practice of compost making is fast spreading in villages where fruit and vegetable gardening has been taken up. The Panchayats are taking keen interest in the digging of compost pits. Shri Nahar Khan, Sarpanch of village Untra told me that their Panchayat had passed a resolution that any cultivator who does not have at least one pit shall have to pay fine of rupee one and 10 seers of wheat instead of the usual 7½ seers per md. of wheat Taccavi loan advanced to him. I understand several Panchayats have passed similar resolutions and these are having the desired effect.



LETTERS

Stillborn Cooperatives

Sir,

Failure of Cooperative Societies may be directly traced to the system of quota fixation. A circular starts from the headquarters stating that such and such a number of societies of such and such type should be completed in a specific time. The official at the base has no choice. His service is at stake. He, of course, completes his quota. Result: paper societies, bogus or, at best, unwilling membership and dissatisfaction in the long run. What good this quota system does ultimately? In my opinion, absolutely none. In fact it damages the movement; rather stabs it.

Again quotas have to be completed within a scheduled period. Then starts hurrying to and fro and a race against time. But this quickness does not lead anywhere. A lot of time is wasted in unnecessary correspondence. Though societies are formed in one day they are registered after a couple of years. And in the meantime, they exist on paper; membership is unable to do anything whatever its enthusiasm. During this long period of lull and suspense, the enthusiasm of the members cools off and they curse the day when they thought of joining a cooperative. The result is that the society remains stillborn and withers away.

1-11-60

Yours etc.
G. B. Madan

Baby that never grows up

Sir,

Right from the beginning, official influence has been a recognised thing in the cooperative field, especially in case of those societies whose membership has been and continues to be illiterate. One would have thought officials of the cooperative department would supply the necessary vision and give the necessary guidance and assistance. Contrary is generally the rule, however. In what manner this official influence works and how it damages can be seen from this example. In case of one society an official wrote to the Marketing Cooperative of the area not to issue sugar to that society because the same had failed to produce its previous record of the sale of sugar. Now, here in the first instance, the society concerned never got any notice to the effect that it should produce records. And secondly, in point of fact, when the official concerned went to the society for looking up the records, the custodian of the books was not in the village. This was enough for the official to write to the Marketing Society and thus stop the business of the society forthwith. The petitions of the office-bearers, elected persons, of course do not matter. Such undue interference—and examples can be endlessly multiplied—of the departmental officials does not allow the societies to flourish. It literally saps the initiative of the members, managing committee members and the office-bearers. Cooperative movement, therefore, is like that baby which never grows up and always wants mother's milk in spite of nutritious food being available in plenty. And baby, it is likely to remain, so long as things continue to be official ridden as they mostly are at present.

1-11-60

Yours etc.
One Who Knows.

A Good Augury

Sir,

The need for educating our Masters, the electorate, has been well recognised in a democracy. But it is more so in a society like that of ours which we are seeking to build on the principle of 'democratic decentralisation'. If the 'Sahkari Samaj' and 'Panchayati Raj' are to be a success, a large army of Panches, office-bearers and members of the cooperatives have to be trained and educated. The Government have shouldered a tremendous responsibility in trying to educate various categories of people. There are sceptics who doubt the wisdom and practicability of the scheme. As one long associated with the cooperative member education scheme, I have found that this has been welcomed whole-heartedly by the persons for whom it is meant and that is the only silver lining in the dark clouds around. I have experienced that those members or office-bearers who used to have doubts about their Cooperatives and their working

and had developed hostile attitudes, are now taking positive interest in their activities. They have come to realise that, it is not by destructive criticism but by constructive work that they can succeed in making their future bright. This is a good augury for the success of the 'Sahkari Samaj' movement.

1-11-60 Yours etc.
Nirmal Singh
Cooperative
Development Officer

Impediment ?

Sir,

Shri S. A. Joshi, Block Development Officer, Lahar, has rightly depicted in your July issue, the difficulties confronting most of the Block Workers. As a Block Development Officer, I had opportunity to work with different kinds of people in the villages. I have great faith in the personal contact method and very often have been able to achieve what others could not. The system of travelling in the fast moving vehicles stands as an impediment in this essential work of rural development. I am able to execute greater volume of work if I visit the villages without the Jeep. When one goes in a jeep, there is always the inherent tendency to 'fly' or to return to Head Quarters even though the work is not accomplished. A systematic and well-chalked out tour without a jeep, not only saves time and energy but helps to achieve effective results.

12-10-60 Yours etc.
S. Muhammed Jheelani
Perundurai,
Dist. Coimbatore.

Progress Assistant

Sir,

I fully endorse the sentiments of Shri D. B. Khairmode, expressed in a letter appearing in the August issue of your journal, regarding the necessity for a change in the designation of Progress Assistants. Though the person remains the same whether he is designated Progress Assistant or Statistical Assistant or Statistical Inspector or Extension Officer for Evaluation, a suitable designation has its own merit, for, at least, it clarifies the mist of misunderstanding among the 'so-called' officers of the Block, that after all, the P.A. is an 'assistant' only.

There is no doubt that what gives annoyance to the Programme Assistant is the fact that he has to attend to minor complaints which have got nothing to do with his job, not only for the latter 20 days of a month but throughout the month. He cannot but attend to such works at the expense of his duty. As his limitations are many and the facilities few, he can act only in such a way as to please his superiors. So, as the "push-forward" comes on him, he can only transmit the figures of achievements he gets from the primary and secondary sources. There is little time for him to go into the reliability of the data. I do not believe that a Progress Assistant can verify on the spot each and every item of achievement. But he can certainly play a better role in maintaining the quality and reliability of the data. The Progress Assistant is the only means by which the officers who can hardly come in constant touch with the activities in a village, can get a correct and clear picture of what is happening at the Block Level or at the Village Level. So it will not be enough if on-the-spot checking alone is done. But what is of greater importance is the way in which on-the-spot checkings are effectively carried out. For this, the Progress Assistant should have freedom in judging the correctness of the figures. His limitations should be minimised as far as possible. He should be vested with more powers to carry out an objective assessment of the programme.

10-9-60 Yours etc.
Kerala *P. Y. Jacob*

Weekly Diaries

Sir,

In response to your Monthly letter No. 5 published in the August issue of Panchayati Raj, I wish to point out that the diary of a Gram Sevak should be published periodically so that the common man may understand the utility of his services to the Government and the villagers. This is the only way of establishing Panchayati Raj in its real sense.

20-9-60 Yours etc.
R. V. Iyer
A regular reader of the
Panchayati Raj
391, Abjiamavattaram
Tanjore.

(We invite the Gram Sevaks to send their weekly diaries for publication in this Journal. —Editor)

(Continued on page 11)

NEWS FROM THE CENTRE

ALLOTMENT OF BLOCKS

THE UNION MINISTRY of Community Development & Cooperation has allotted 150 pre-extension blocks and 121 Stage I Blocks by conversion from pre-extension Blocks, under the October 1960 series, to eight State Governments and the Union Territory of Tripura.

Following is the Statewise break-up of pre-extension Blocks: Andhra Pradesh 22; Madhya Pradesh 18; Madras 16; Punjab 9; Orissa 16; Uttar Pradesh 46; Mysore 12; Rajasthan 10 & Tripura 1.

The Statewise break-up of Stage I Blocks by conversion is as follows; Andhra Pradesh 18, Madhya Pradesh 15; Madras 13; Orissa 12; Punjab 7, Uttar Pradesh 37; Mysore 10; Rajasthan 8 and Tripura 1.

The allotment of Blocks is made after fully satisfying that the various categories of C.D. personnel are in position. This is in accordance with a decision taken last year that Blocks are to be allotted only when a State Government has adequately trained staff.

The question of actual location of blocks in various States, other than Jammu & Kashmir, (which is fully covered) will be finalised after the position of adequately trained staff has been carefully examined.

The location of Blocks by the State Governments is to be determined by certain tests of self-reliance and self-help shown by the people, such as fair evidence of cleanliness and sanitation in the villages and the extent of coverage by panchayats and cooperatives.

To help increase food production, State Governments have been asked to give the highest priority in regard to the location of the new blocks to wheat and paddy areas with secure irrigation facilities or adequate rainfal and in which intensive work is to be undertaken.

8 YEARS OF C.D. PROGRAMME

THE C.D. PROGRAMME which entered its ninth year on October 2, 1960, covers more than 3,80,000 villages with a population of 19.2 crores, or 65 per cent of the rural population of the country.

People's contribution, from the inception of the programme to March 31, 1960, totalled just above Rs. 87 crores, as against Government expenditure of Rs. 173.25 crores.

Principal physical achievements under the programme, up to March 31, 1960, ininclude: Distribution of 27,320,000 maunds of improved seeds, 62,251,000 maunds of chemical fertilisers and 1,595,000 improved implements. Agricultural demonstrations held numbered 8,047,000 and compost pits dug 9,300,000.

In the field of animal husbandry, 74,000 improved bulls were supplied, the number of improved birds being 1,041,000 and the animals castrated 7,385,000.

Primary Health Centres functioning on March 31, 1960, numbered 2,281, drinking water wells sunk 1,84,000 and wells renovated 2,74,000. Rural latrines constructed totalled 6,04,000; pucca drains 24,264,000 sq. yards and the village lanes paved measured 12,709,000 sq. yards.

Progress registered in the field of social education is shown by the fact that on March 31, 1960, the adult education centres started under the programme numbered 1,56,000 and adults trained till that date 43,00,000. The number of reading rooms and libraries started stood at 72,000.

During the same period 3,26,000 smokeless chulhas were installed and 28,232 Ambar Charkhas introduced. The value of improved tools and appliances distributed was 7,58,000.

In the field of Communications, 1,09,000 miles of *kutcha* roads were constructed during the same period, while existing *kutcha* roads improved totalled 1,36,000 miles and culverts constructed 86,000.

Uptil March 31, 1960, 61,000 functional Village Leaders' (Gram Sahayak's) Camps had been organised under the Programme, and 28 lakhs Village Leaders trained. Youth Clubs and

Farmers' Clubs formed numbered 149,000 with a membership of 18,49,000. Mahila Samitis and Mandals formed numbered 36,000 with a membership of 569,000.

Panchayats functioning in the country on March 31, 1960, totalled 176,109 covering 480,000 villages and a population of 22.5 crores excluding Andhra Pradesh.

The number of co-operative societies of all types functioning in the country stood at 2.58 lakhs, with a membership of 2.15 crores. Primary agricultural credit and multipurpose societies numbered 1.67 lakhs, with a membership of 1.02 crores.

CO-OPERATIVE FARMING

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA have taken final decisions on the recommendations of the Working Group on Co-operative Farming. As a result of these decisions, a Co-operative Farming Board has been set up at the Centre for promoting cooperative farming and 3,200 cooperative farms are to be organised on voluntary basis under a Pilot Projects Scheme—at the rate of ten in each district.

The question of setting up of cooperative Farming Board at the State level has been left to the State Governments. The State Governments have been asked that Cooperative farming societies should be eligible for assistance on a priority basis under various schemes which provide for assistance to individual cultivators.

Policies for promoting cooperative farming and primary service cooperatives at the primary level are, however, not to cut across one another, and at all stages, cooperative farming is visualised as a stage in cooperative development, not as a programme isolated from the normal pattern of growth of the rural economy to be achieved through Community Development.

ADEQUATE CREDIT TO CULTIVATORS

THE UNION MINISTRY of Community Development and Co-operation have also taken decisions on the recommendations of the Committee on Cooperative Credit. In pursuance of these decisions all classes of cultivators, including the landless tenants, are to be provided with adequate credit on the basis of their production requirements and repaying capacity. Decisions taken by the Government of India also relate to the pattern of organisation of village cooperative societies, state partnership in share capital of primary agricultural credit societies, outright grants to primary societies and Central Banks for providing special "bad debt reserve" and grants to primary societies for managerial expenses.

Cooperatives, are to be organised, as a general rule, on the basis of the village community as a primary unit.

Where the villages are too small, a number of villages, with a total population of up to 3,000 and situated at a distance of not more than three to four miles from the headquarters village, may be grouped together in the interests of viability.

Viability of a cooperative society is to be determined on the basis of its capacity to bring into the cooperative fold all rural families and to effectively implement the village agricultural production plans. Its ability to link credit with production and marketing, as also to supervise the use of credit, undertaking distribution and supply, and to attract local savings to the maximum possible extent, as share capital and as deposits, are also to be taken into consideration.

The State may participate in the share capital of a primary agricultural society, provided that 60 per cent of its members agree to such participation and the Central Bank to which the Society is affiliated supports the proposal.

PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION

THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & CO-OPERATION has in a circular letter addressed to all States expressed the opinion that Local contribution should come mainly from voluntary made efforts by a Panchayat. Contribution may also be made from income from Panchayat property or taxes levied or collected by a Panchayat. But it will not be correct to treat any contribution made by panchayat from out of funds received by it from the Panchayat Samiti, the Zilla

(*Continued on page* 16)

NEWS FROM THE STATES

ANDHRA PRADESH

If people's participation in their own development schemes is an index of the success of the C.D. Programme, the Panchayati Raj; which has become just one year old on the first day of November in Andhra Pradesh, has fully justified its existence. It is understood that the total contributions realised from the people by way of cash, labour and material has amounted to Rs. 40.79 lakhs. This contribution roughly works out to 30 per cent of the total expenditure excluding loans. The contribution continued to be largest for formation of roads, construction of drinking water wells and school buildings while irrigation works received next priority. In a number of blocks, the people's contribution exceeded the total Government expenditure. In Rudravaram Panchayat Samithi Block, three miles of roads were constructed by the people, similarly in Pulletikuru Panchayat Samithi Block, the people contributed nearly Rs. 10,000 for formation of 9 miles of roads. In Bhimunipatnam, 7 school buildings were constructed by the people. In Bhimadevarapalli, the people contributed about about Rs. 10,000 for construction of 11 miles of roads in 15 villages. In Mallial Panchayat Samithi Block, the people contributed nearly Rs. 6,000 for construction of school buildings. In Badval Panchayat Samithi Block, the contribution from the people amounted to Rs. 20,800 for construction of 3 godowns, irrigation channels, 2 schools and some other buildings.

BIHAR

The Gram Panchayats in Monghyr district in Bihar have done creditable work in the field of administration and execution of development schemes during the past three years. 712 Gram Panchayats are now functioning in 39 Development Blocks-*cum*-Anchals in Monghyr district, covering a population of about twenty-nine lakhs. 125 of these Panchayats constructed embankments along the river Gandak for a total length of hundred miles and made a net profit of rupees five lakhs which is being utilised for development works in their respective areas.

During the recent Central Government employees' strike, about 5,000 Gram Panchayat workers were pressed into service in Monghyr district to guard the railway tracks and telegraph lines.

In 1959-60 these Panchayats established 342 adult education centres, constructed 1,426 bore-hole latrines, 3,020 ordinary latrines, dug 601 wells and 1,274 compost pits, constructed buildings of 56 primary schools and fifty miles of new roads, planted 32,000 trees and repaired 232 miles of roads.

Last year 4,243 cases, including 782 civil cases, were filed before Panchayat Courts of Monghyr district, of which 3,214 were compromised at the instance and persuasion of these courts.

Thirty Panchayats of the district have recently been empowered to realise land revenue. 64 Panchayats were also utilised for collection of Government loans during the recent loan collection drive launched by the State Government. The Hathiyawan Panchayat of Monghyr District stood first in the whole State in loan collection work and was awarded a cash prize of Rs. 1,000.

JAMMU & KASHMIR

The entire State has been delimited into Panchayats and the new Act has been enforced. A detailed scheme for the training of the Panchayat Secretaries, sarpanches, panches etc. is being prepared by the State Government. A lumpsum provision has been made in the State Third Five Year Plan to meet the State's share of the expenditure on these schemes.

MADHYA PRADESH

The Madhya Pradesh State Government has decided to entrust work of collection of land revenue to the Village Panchayats from next year.

COMMUNITY ON THE MOVE

A MODEL SERVICE COOPERATIVE

THE AGRICULTURAL service cooperative society of Rasulpur village, in Jullundur district of the Punjab is well on the way to become a model service cooperative. Embracing each one of the 433 families, including 120 Backward and Scheduled Caste families, in the village, it complies with most of the production requirements of the members.

In 1959, it supplied 350 mds. of fertilizers and 40 mds. of improved wheat seeds. The seeds were distributed to its members after germination tests by the society. The society also stocks insecticides and has two spray pumps for use by its members. It is also the sole supplier of sugar in the village and handles the members' other requirements, *e.g.*, of matches, salt, tea and vegetable ghee.

Loans advanced during the cooperative year ending June, 1960, totalled Rs. 41,658 and the purposes for which the loans were given included the purchase of fertilizers, cattle, agricultural implements and land; as also for repairs and construction of houses and domestic use.

The society attracts deposits, which are loaned to its members, the surplus being invested in the Central Bank —a feature showing self-help and initiative to solve its own problems. Deposits attracted by the society, during the year ending June, 1960, amounted to Rs. 91,700, the withdrawals accounting for Rs. 76,500. The balance of total deposits stands at Rs. 2,63,000 which constitutes 85% of the total working capital of Rs. 3,10,000.

The society's working capital includes the share capital of Rs. 26,000, a Reserve Fund of the order of Rs. 13,000 and other funds totalling Rs. 2,800.

When in 1957, the society was converted into a large-sized society, the Punjab Government contributed a share capital of Rs. 20,000. In view of the progress, the management of the society has now decided to return the Government's share capital which, its members feel, has become redundant.

The society advances loans for credit-worthy purpose against personal sureties. The current rate of interest is 6%, and the cooperative is now considering proposals to scale it down.

One of the unique features of the society is that throughout its life, there has been no case of wilful default. None of its members is indebted to other agencies outside the society. At no time also had the society to resort to legal or other coercive action for recovery of loans. This is because every member of the society considers it his moral obligation to be punctual in the matter of repayment of his loan according to stipulated instalments. As a result, there has been no case to warrant writing off any amount as "irrecoverable".

The society has an impressive office building and godown built entirely out of its own funds. The streets and drains of the village have also been improved out of the "common good" dividened.

The society's efficiency has reached far and wide and deposits, current as well as fixed, come from even neighbouring villages. It is now the hub of all development activities. It generates hope and enthusiasm and has made its members rely on themselves rather than on Governmental agencies.

* * *

U.P. CULTIVATORS TAKE TO GREEN MANURING

THE AREA under green manure in Uttar Pradesh is expected to go up from 6.5 lakh acres to 110 lakh acres, nearly 17 times, in five years.

The cultivators in the State have enthusiastically taken to the use of green manure. Green manure is expected to help increase food production in the State in the Third Plan to the extent of 11.4 lakh tons, nearly as much as nitrogenous fertilisers and rural compost together. The trend for increasing use of green manures will thus have a far reaching implication for food production not only in Uttar Pradesh but in other parts of the country.

This spectacular increase in the use of green manure has

been made possible by the introduction of a new method of border planting of green manure plants for growing seeds. Until three years ago there was an inadequate supply of green manure seeds which hampered extensive use of this inexpensive type of manure. The border planting method, advocated by Shri M. S. Sivaraman, Adviser, Planning Commission, has removed this bottleneck.

It is expected that the area under green manure will ultimately go up to 30 million acres in Uttar Pradesh.

* * *

WOMEN TAKE THE INITIATIVE

THE WOMEN of Durg town in Madhya Pradesh have come forward to popularise the Savings Schemes in the town. They have formed an 18-member committee with Shrimati Sudha Rajput as chairman, to launch a campaign of Small Savings collections in the town. Each member of this committee would form another subcommittee in her own ward so that all houses may be covered by the campaign.

It may be recalled that Durg district has been selected a model district for Small Savings in the State. Out of the current year's targets of Rs. 30 lakhs, Rs. 17 lakhs were collected in the district up to the middle of October.

* * *

AERIAL SPRAYING OF INSECTICIDES

THE AGRICULTURISTS of South Satara district in Maharashtra realised a net monetary gain of Rs. 4.33 lakhs last year as a result of aerial spraying of insecticides on the Deccan wingless grasshoppers over an area of 15,000 acres. A saving of 34,500 B. mds. of jowar was estimated to have been effected by the spraying operations. On an average a saving of three B. mds. of grains per acre was obtained. This year it is proposed to cover an area of 30,000 acres, depending upon the intensity of the attack of the pests.

KAIRA DISTRICT CO-OPERATIVE MILK UNION

THE SPECTACULAR progress achieved by the Kaira District Cooperative Milk Producers Union in Gujerat in a short period of 14 years only gives one an idea of what can be achieved if there is initiative and determination to help oneself in a planned manner. With the blessings of late Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, it started with a humble cooperative of two villages. Today, 17 villages with over 40,000 farmers are its members. Recently, a Baby Food and Cheese plant built at a cost of Rs. 31 lakhs was declared open. The plant is one of the best equipped in Asia. The entire process of manufacturing is automatic from the ultra high temperature pasteurisation of the milk by electronic control to the filling of the baby food into sterilised tins. It will produce 2,500 tons of baby food and one million pounds of processed cheese annually. It would save the country Rs. 1.5 crores in foreign exchange on food and processed cheese besides the annual saving of Rs. 1 crore through other products.

LETTERS

(Continued from page 6)

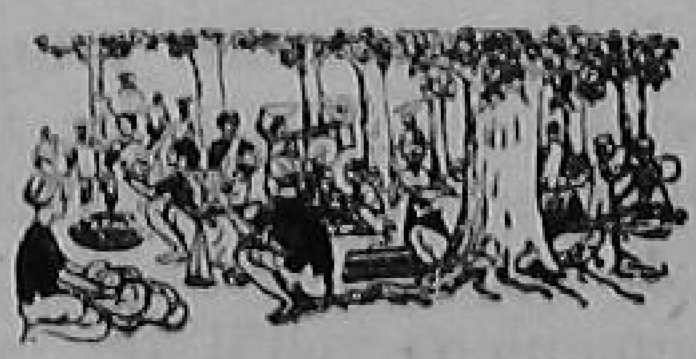
Broadbased

Sir,

In the August issue of Panchayati Raj, Shri S. K. Dey has stated that Panchayati Raj means 'Government by the system of five'. The word 'Panch' in Sanskrit means that which is 'spread out' or 'extended', whereas 'Ayat' means the base on which something rests or depends. So, 'Panchayati Raj' may also mean "BROAD-BASED".

Panchayati Raj can spread only if the State bureaucrats like Commissioners, Chairmen etc. are not imposed on the local bodies with power to overrule and act independently. Panchayati Raj at present is a mockery, a mere pretence. Why not let the non-officials have full freedom to err and to learn by committing mistakes? A child learning to walk must be given freedom to fall.

20-9-60 Yours etc.
R.S. Puram, *R. S. Sankariar.*
Coimbatore.



The Story of a Collective Farm in Russia

P. Ionov

SEVENTY-TWO YEAR OLD Akmurad Kadjanov was sitting on a rug over a cup of green tea that was getting cold. The Turkman was talking unhurriedly as becomes a man of his great experience. Sometimes he paused and stroked his beard with his rough knotty fingers as if gathering his recollections. His 48-year old son Dourdy and 22-year old grandson Berdymurad sat next to him in respectful silence.

Akmurad and his wife Aisoltan have a big family consisting of four sons, two daughters, daughters-in-law, sons-in-law and 16 grandchildren. Six of the latter attend school. All the grown-up members of the family are working at the collective farm, with the exception of one son Ovmat, who is the chief of the post office. Akmurad himself is not working. He is on pension, which is paid to him by the collective farm. However, Akmurad does not keep aloof from the farm affairs. Once in a while someone comes to him for advice.

"I remember," says Akmurad Kadjanov, "How in 1930 the poor farmers began eagerly to join what was called a "kolkhoz". True, in the beginning there were some who doubted that the collective farms were really for them. But there is an old Turkmenian saying—with a good companion you'll do everything right, with a poor one you'll lose your own way. We didn't have to wait long. The time came when they realised how things really were and asked permission to join the collective farm themselves. At that time the farm had a small area under crop, which was sown exclusively to Egyptian cotton. We did not have tractors or any other machines. We ploughed with draught horses and oxen. It was hard to get much work done with our primitive implements, and our harvests were not high—7-8 centners* of raw cotton per hectare**. While today . . . "

Akmurad paused and looking at his oldest son, said: "Ask him what the collective farm is like today. From the very first days of the collective farm he worked as a rank and file farmer and for the last 22 years he has been a tractor operator."

Dourdy nodded respectfully to his father and only when he had become silent did he start to talk. "In the past years," he said, "Our collective farm has changed beyond recognition. And it were we who did that. And I'll tell you why! It's because we all know one good truth: working for the collective farm means working for ourselves."

In old days an ordinary Turkman could not even dream that instead of a ramshackle, smoke-blackened hut he could have his own spacious house. Our big family has ten houses. We have our own garden plots, half a hectare in size, thirty-five rams, goats and cows. We go to work on our own motorcycles, and if you drop in at our houses you'll see that we have everything starting with rugs and ending with the latest makes of radios."

Someone asked how the rank and file collective farmers have been able to acquire all that? He replied, "This question is easy to answer. Last year, for instance, the income of our family was almost 90,000 roubles in cash and in kind we received about 10 tons of grain, hundreds of kilograms of milk, grapes, water-melons, melons and vegetables for our work-day units. This year we'll get even more. This is how it is: the wealthier our collective farm, the richer we are. That is why we spare no efforts to multiply the collective farm wealth."

Dourdy sipped his tea, broke a crispy bun into two and went on with his story. He continued, "Yes, our collective farm has changed beyond recognition, especially since water was brought to its fields by the canal. My father mentioned that there was a time when the collective farm had no more land than is now taken care of by

(*Continued on page* 14)

*1. *one centners is = 100 Kilogram.*
**2. *one hectare is = 2½ acres.*

JAWAN MAL BUILDS THE ROAD

H. C. Srivastva

FROM NAYAGAON on the highway connecting Jodhpur with Udaipur, branches off a road which has a story to tell. At all odd hours during the day—and at night with the help of a kerosene lantern —a 44-year old man is busy keeping the road in shape, repairing breaches or constructing culverts. Clad in a Khadi shirt with a Khadi turban on his head and a spade in hand, the man is Jawan Mal. Road is a part of his life: he has built it through his own efforts. The road connects some seven villages from Magartalab to Nayagaon, in the Desuri Panchayat Samiti, in the Pali district of Jodhpur Division.

Jawan Mal, born in a Brahmin family of Kolar village, had to give up agriculture as a means of livelihood soon after his father died of snakebite. He left his village and went to Hyderabad, where he worked as a domestic servant in the house of a businessman. For 30 years, he toiled and saved some money. Then one day his wife died, leaving him with only one child—a daughter. Soon afterwards the daughter also died. Jawan Mal lost interest in life. He decided to return to his village with all his savings and the ornaments left him by his wife—a lonely man.

When, however, he got down from the bus at Nayagaon, it was raining heavily. The entire countryside appeared to have been flooded. It was a problem to wade through the water to his village.

NEW INTEREST

Fed up with his life, Jawan Mal wanted to create a new interest. And what could be of greater interest than serving the community?

It was in that rain that he thought that the village where he was born, and those situated closeby, must have a pucca road to connect them to the highway. "The road would be a carrier of new ideas and will open up opportunities to the humble folk living in the villages." The idea became an inspiration. Jawan Mal decided that the road must be built, irrespective of the cost and labour involved.

FACING OPPOSITION

Jawan Mal's brothers, who welcomed him to the village, were not appreciative of the idea of a road. "No road has existed so far", they told him and "it is no use for an individual, or a group of individuals, to attempt to build one". More with an eye on his savings than his happiness, they wanted him to live a normal life and to settle down. But Jawan Mal was not convinced with these arguments. "The road must be built", he said to himself, "and if others won't help me, I would do it alone."

The only ray of light in the darkness that surrounded him appeared to be Block staff, led by the BDO, who welcomed the idea and promised all possible help in his plan for the construction of a road through Shramdan if he could mobilise others.

The villagers, however, laughed at Jawan Mal's idea. Harder the opposition, greater the determination of Jawan Mal to build the road.

He asked the Block authorities to prepare estimates of expenditure for the construction of the road. The estimate was prepared. According to this, it would need Rs. 10,000 to build it.

Facing hostility and opposition from all sides, lonely Jawan Mal disposed of all the jewellery left by his wife for Rs. 2,000. To this he added his life's savings of Rs. 7,000. For the remaining Rs. 1,000, he mortgaged his land. He was thus able to raise the entire amount of Rs. 10,000 all by himself.

'Operation road' was started. The construction of a road was, however, not all that simple. A serious problem posed was that of alignment; for that suggested by the Block authorities cut across various fields under cultivation. When Jawan Mal approached these fields and dug up the road, the owners came and beat him up mercilessly. Jawan Mal approached the police for

help, but his operation (of tresspassing into others' fields) was illegal. What could the police do? Jawan Mal felt desperate.

Another difficulty. A water channel flowing through the field of a relation of his was damaged during the construction work. Instigated by a group of villagers, this relative beat up Jawan Mal. The lonely figure, attacked by a large group of people, he felt helpless. He fell down unconscious. This was not all. The inhabitants of the village ex-communicated him. To add to his woes, the heavy rains breached a part of the road that he had constructed. His helpers, 300 labourers from the neighbouring villages, deserted him as soon as he had cut through his money.

EFFORT REWARDED

But Jawan Mal refused to give in. He continued his work. He himself repaired the breaches and, slowly but steadily, completed the construction.

Just about this time, a new panchayat of the area was elected. Members of the Panchayat and the Panchayat Samiti which had a wider horizon appreciated the work done by Jawan Mal for the country and the suffering he had undergone. They came to his rescue and helped him acquire the land for the common good of the community through regular legal procedure. The work now progressed. On the completion of the road, the Panchayat Samiti also honoured him and named the road as Jawan Mal Road.

The villagers of the surrounding area were also impressed by the work he had done for the community and changed their attitude. They saw that his madness had a method. It was something more than a hobby with him. It was a dedication to an ideal. They all wanted to atone for the hardships they had caused him. Even his three brothers came round and jointly raised a sum of Rs. 3,000 and placed it at his disposal.

Wrote Shri S. K. Dey, Union Minister for Community Development: "You have performed a remarkable feat. Not only the people of your Panchayat Samiti but every citizen of this country would be proud of your achievement. I congratulate you, and I hope that what you have achieved would inspire others in your Samiti and bring about a revolution in the mental outlook of the people."

Jawan Mal's only wish: the road connecting Nayagaon to Magartalab should be metalled, so that the buses can ply.

THE STORY OF A COLLECTIVE FARM IN RUSSIA

(*Continued from page 12*)

one team, and that the cotton fields yielded only 7-8 centners per hectare. Now the area under crop is 1,270 hectares and we take in 20 and more centners of cotton per hectare. The income of the collective farm last year was 11 million roubles. Four million of that came from new lands brought under cultivation near the canal. Altogether, 265 hectares of new lands were ploughed up last year and this year. We ourselves built a dam with the help of machines and dug a 13 kilometers long irrigation canal to the fields. Just imagine what the income of the collective farm will be in 1965 when we'll cultivate 500 more hectares of new land !"

We must add to what Akmuradov and his son said that with the growth of its income the collective farm will be able to spend more to improve the collective farm village. Today the collective farm has 3 schools, a club, kindergarten, nursery, a hospital with 35 beds, and work going on the construction and equipment of new field-camps. The collective farm has brought good agricultural machines from the state. It has 34 tractors, to say nothing of other machinery.

Job Chart for Gram Sevikas

WE PUBLISH below the revised job chart of Gram Sevikas as evolved jointly by the Directorate of Extension of the Ministry of Food & Agriculture, the Central Social Welfare Board and the Ministry of Community Development & Cooperation. It will be seen that in the work of the Gram Sevikas of Social Welfare Board, there is greater emphasis on running of balwadis, craft classes for women and general welfare work among women. In the working of the Gram Sevikas trained in Home Science Wings of the Extension Training Centres, there is greater emphasis on improvements relating to the home and less of welfare and community organisation. Hence, an attempt has now been made to evolve a new job chart to give equal emphasis in the field of social welfare and home management.—*Ed.*

The Gram Sevika's job is multipurpose in character. It falls under the following broad heads :—

1. Mother and child care.
2. Home management.
3. Food and nutrition.
4. Health and sanitation.
5. Clothing.
6. Domestic crafts.
7. Agriculture and Animal Husbandry.
8. Panchayats and Cooperation.
9. Women's and Children's activities.

Under each broad head the gram sevikas are required to attend to the fololwing detailed jobs :

I. MOTHER AND CHILD CARE

1. Educating mothers regarding diet and personal health particularly during pregnancy and nursing.

2. Planning diets for infants.

3. Imparting knowledge regarding common ailments of children. Their prevention and cure.

4. (a) Educating women on the need of family planning.

(b) Arranging talks on the subject.

(c) Giving information about family planning clinics.

5. Organisation and promotion of balwadis.

II. HOME MANAGEMENT

1. Educating the village women in keeping their homes clean, healthy and comfortable within the available resources.

2. Indigenous methods of beautifying the homes.

3. Introduction of :

(a) smokeless chulas

(b) labour-saving devices *e.g.* use of cookers, ball-bearing chakkis etc.

4. Habits of thrift.

III. FOOD AND NUTRITION

1. Studying local food habits.

2. Helping the village women in the planning and preparation of balanced diets within their means and with the foodstuffs locally available.

3. Popularising non-cereals, mixed diets and local fruits.

4. Encouraging improved methods of food preparation at all stages.

5. Introducing improved methods of :

(a) storing foods.

(b) food preservation.

(c) disposal of kitchen waste.

IV. HEALTH AND SANITATION

1. Promotion of personal hygiene.

2. Environmental hygiene with particular reference to :

(a) water supply.

(b) bathing and washing places.

(c) disposal of human waste.

3. Storage of foodgrains.

4. Control of communicable diseases—causation, spread, prevention, control and cure.

5. Disseminating information regarding health organisation and services in the Block.

6. Providing—

(a) home nursing

(b) first aid

(c) knowledge of—

(i) home remedies

(ii) diets for the invalids.

V. CLOTHING

1. Educating the women in the making, mending, washing and care of clothes.

VI. DOMESTIC CRAFTS

1. Developing skills to make useful household articles using local material through the teaching of crafts such as spinning, weaving, basket-making, soap-making, net-making, toys, etc.

2. Educating women on the importance of industrial cooperatives.

3. Helping to create an atmosphere for sale of products.

VII. AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Agriculture

1. Education in the use of compost pits.

2. Educating the rural women in improved methods for local crops, manuring, sowing, irrigation, transplanting, promotion of Japanese methods of paddy cultivation.

3. (a) Encouraging kitchen-gardening throughout the year;

(b) growing of seasonal flowers; and

(c) planting of common fruit trees.

4. Demonstrating collection and preservation of seeds and storage of foodgrains.

Animal Husbandry

Educating rural women in:

1. Improving cattle sheds and keeping them clean.

2. Preservation of fodder.

3. Care of cattle including proper feeding.

4. Clean milking practices.

5. Preparation of milk products and preservation of milk and milk products.

Poultry

1. Helping in the propogation of modern methods of hatching, rearing, feeding and housing of improved poultry.

2. Disseminating of elementary knowledge of common contagious diseases and preventive measures against them.

3. Introduction of improved cockerels.

4. Helping in the demonstration of improved methods of preservation and storage of eggs.

5. Helping in the promotion of bee-keeping, sericulture and fishery etc., wherever possible.

VIII. PANCHAYATS AND COOPERATION

1. Spreading awareness of:

(a) the importance of panchayats in village life.

(b) the role of women under the Panchayati Raj.

2. Creating consciousness among women about

(a) the significance of cooperation in rural life.

(b) promotion of cooperative membership among women.

IX. WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

1. To cater to the special needs of women and children as enumerated in the job chart.

2. To promote the welfare of women and children through their participation in community development.

3. Recreational and cultural programmes for women and children.

X. OTHER COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

To organise the community to develop self-help and other activities of common good.

NEWS FROM THE CENTRE

(Continued from page 8)

Parishad or the State or Central Governments towards local contribution.

PANCHAYAT COURTS

A THREE-MAN TEAM has been appointed to study the system of Panchayat courts and recommend improvements.

The team, which will go round the States, will study how Panchayat courts can dispense speedy, inexpensive and impartial justice and suggest steps to make such courts popular in areas where they are not firmly established. In particular, the team will go into such questions as the mode of appointing Panches, their qualifications and the need for training; also whether the jurisdiction of Panchayat courts in civil and criminal matters should be exclusive or concurrent with regular courts and whether they should also have conciliatory functions.

Members of village Panchayat Chorasiawas in Srinagar Panchayat Samiti of Rajasthan discussing with the members of study team of M.Ps that recently toured the State in order to assess the impact of Panchayati Raj on the pace of development work.

A view of a Rapat (anicut) built at village Gegal in Rajasthan State. The Rapats have brought about a tremendous increase in the subsoil irrigation potential. This old system of irrigation got a new lease of life since the introduction of Panchayati Raj. Feverish activities of renovation of obsolete Rapats and construction of new ones are being witnessed in most of the Panchayat areas. (For details see the article 'Glimpses of Panchayati Raj in Rajasthan on page 2).

Printed by the Manager, Government of India Press, Faridabad, and published by the Director, Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcastin", Delhi-6, on behalf of the Ministry of Community Development and Cooperation.

Regd. D—877